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DRAFTED BY: AF/P:MBSWANN

APPROVED BY: AF/P:BWALKLEY

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - APRIL 12, 1994

1. BELOW IS GUIDANCE ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI

2. RWANDA

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Q. WHAT NEWS IS THERE OF THE EVACUATION FROM RWANDA?

A. -- ALL AMERICANS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE RWANDA ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. MANY OF THEM TRAVELLED INITIALLY TO BUJUMBURA, THE CAPITAL OF BURUNDI.

, - FROM BUJUMBURA, MANY FLEW TO NAIROBI ON PLANES PROVIDED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE. THERE WERE FOUR FLIGHTS DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS CARRYING A TOTAL OF 223 PASSENGERS, 150 OF WHOM WERE AMERICANS. THE LAST OF THOSE U.S FLIGHTS LEFT BUJUMBURA THIS MORNING. IN ADDITION, AMERICANS FLEW OUT OF KIGALI OR OUT OF BUJUMBURA ON FLIGHTS PROVIDED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

Q. ARE ANY AMERICANS LEFT IN RWANDA?

A. -- YES. THE EMBASSY WAS IN CONTACT WITH ALL 258 AMERICANS KNOWN TO BE IN RWANDA. NOT ALL AMERICANS CHOSE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

-- SEVERAL AMERICANS REMAIN IN TOWNS CLOSE TO RWANDA'S BORDERS AND HAVE NOT YET CROSSED THE BORDER.

-- IN ADDITION, SEVERAL AMERICANS ARE EMPLOYEES OF U.N. AGENCIES OR OF THE ICRC. THEY AWAIT THE EVACUATION PLANS OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.

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-- TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALL AMERICANS REMAINING IN RWANDA ARE SAFE.

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Q. AMERICANS ARE OUT; IS THE U.S. STILL CONCERNED ABOUT RWANDA?

A -- YES. WE CALL ON ALL PARTIES IN RWANDA TO STOP THE FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY. THEY NEED TO NEGOTIATE A TRUCE URGENTLY AND BEGIN DISCUSSIONS TOWARDS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN RWANDA?

A. -- THE SECURITY SITUATION IN RWANDA REMAINS UNCERTAIN. FIGHTING CONTINUES IN AREAS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) FORCES MOVING DOWN FROM THE NORTH ARE APPROACHING KIGALI.

-- FRENCH AND BELGIAN FORCES ARE AT THE AIRPORT. EFFORTS TO EVACUATE REMAINING FOREIGN NATIONALS CONTINUE.

-- THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE INTERIM CABINET HAS LEFT THE HOTEL IN KIGALI WHERE THEY WERE STAYING FOR ANOTHER LOCATION IN RWANDA.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.N. DOING TO TRY TO RESTORE ORDER?

A -- THE UNAMIR FORCE COMMANDER AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN KIGALI ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A MILITARY CEASE-FIRE AMONG THE FIGHTING GROUPS. THEY ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO OPEN A POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

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-- THE UN FORCES IN KIGALI HAVE PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR

THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO EVACUATE FOREIGN NATIONALS IN RWANDA. THEY ARE ALSO PROTECTING THOUSANDS OF RWANDANS IN THEIR COMPOUND. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NO MANDATE TO ENGAGE IN EFFORTS TO ENFORCE ORDER IN THE COUNTRY.

Q. IF THE U.N. CAN'T SAVE RWANDA, WHO CAN?

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A. -- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL DO ITS BEST TO ASSIST THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN RWANDA, BUT THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS IS WITH THE RWANDANS THEMSELVES.

3. BURUNDI

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI?

A. -- THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI REMAINS CALM. LEONARD LANGE, THE CHARGE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BUJUMBURA, HAS A MEETING SCHEDULED THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN BURUNDI TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT SITUATION.

-- ON APRIL 7, THE DAY AFTER THE DEATHS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ORDERED THE TEMPORARY DEPARTURE OF ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL AND ISSUED A TRAVEL WARNING WHICH ADVISED PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS TO DEPART BURUNDI. THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BUJUMBURA REMAINS OPEN. BEFORE APRIL 6, THERE
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WERE APPROXIMATELY 180 AMERICANS IN BURUNDI, FEWER THAN HALF OF WHOM WERE U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS.

-- THE AIRPORT IN BUJUMBURA IS OPEN AND OPERATING. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ARE OPERATING.

Q. -- HAVE THE U.S. MARINES LEFT BUJUMBURA?

A. -- YES. THE MARINES WERE SENT TO BUJUMBURA TO BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST, IF NECESSARY, THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM RWANDA. IT DID NOT BECOME NECESSARY FOR U.S. FORCES TO ENTER RWANDA AND THE MARINES HAVE LEFT BURUNDI.

MIMIMIZE CONSIDERED CHRISTOPHER

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